

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 01665 241014Z

15

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-02 COME-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 H-02 /059 W

----- 071291

R 241000Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8543

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, TS

SUBJ: TAXATION TREATY

REF: STATE 60681

1. WHILE EMBASSY HAS NOT YET GIVEN MODEL TAXATION TREATY AND SAMPLE TREATIES CONCLUDED WITH OTHER COUNTRIES TO GOT, IT HAS INFORMED IT OF SUBSTANCE OF STATE 58051 PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REFTEL AND PROMISED TO GIVE TEXTS WITHIN FEW DAYS. GOT WOULD HAVE TROUBLE UNDERSTANDING WHY EMBASSY SUDDENLY WOULD DECIDE NOT TO MAKE PROMISED TEXTS AVAILABLE. THEREFORE, UNLESS ADVISED TO CONTRARY, WE PLAN TO PROCEED TO PROVIDE THESE DOCUMENTS TO APPROPRIATE MINISTRY AT A CONVENIENT TIME AFTER TUNISIAN HOLIDAY MARCH 25.

2. IN FACT, WE BELIEVE TABLING COPY OF MODEL TAX AGREEMENT AT SHORT INAUGURAL MEETING OF JOINT COMMISSION WOULD ATTACH TOO MUCH SIGNIFICANCE TO IT, PARTICULARLY IF FURTHER STUDY BY BOTH PARTIES INDICATES THAT POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF SUCH A TREATY ARE MINIMAL. IF TEXTS GIVEN NOW, THERE MIGHT BE SOME APPRECIATION ON PART OF GOT BY TIME OF COMMISSION MEETING AS TO WHETHER THERE ARE SUFFICIENT GROUNDS TO WARRANT INCLUDING SUBJECT IN FUTURE JOINT

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PAGE 02 TUNIS 01665 241014Z

COMMISSION MEETINGS. IN VIEW OF LENGTH OF TIME WHICH

WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THE TUNISIANS TO STUDY MODEL TREATY
AND RECONCILE IT WITH THEIR LAWS AND POLICY OBJECTIVES,
HOWEVER, WE DOUBT THAT THEY WOULD WISH TO HAVE EVEN
PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS AT FIRST JOINT COMMISSION MEETING.
WE CAN ALSO ADVISE, IF NECESSARY, THAT IT NOT BE INCLUDED
AS A SEPARATE TOPIC ON THE AGENDA.

3. EMBASSY IS COMPILING COPIES OF TUNISIAN INCOME TAX
LAWS, WHICH WILL BE POUCHED SHORTLY TO NEA/AFN FOR
APPROPRIATE US AGENCIES. WE DOUBT THAT COPIES IN ENGLISH
WILL BE AVAILABLE, ALTHOUGH HOPEFULLY THERE MAY BE
SUMMARIES.
SEELYE

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